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London, Published according to Act of Parliament Feb.ʳ 22.ᵈ 1780.

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A

POETICAL EPISTLE

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM

An INHABITANT of the STATE of MARYLAND.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

A SHORT SKETCH

OF

General WASHINGTON's LIFE and CHARACTER.

———On his aſpect ſhines
Sublimeſt virtue, and deſire of fame,
Where juſtice gives the laurel; in his eye
Th' unextinguiſhable ſpark, which fires
The ſouls of Patriots; while his brow ſupports
Undaunted valour, and contempt of death. LEONIDAS.

Ille Deûm vitam accipiet, diviſque videbit
Per miſtos heroas, et ipſe videbitur illis. VIRG.

ANNAPOLIS Printed 1779:
LONDON Reprinted for C. DILLY, in the Poultry; J. ALMON, Piccadilly;
W. TESSEYMAN, York; T. and J. MERRILL, Cambridge;
R. CRUTTWELL, Bath; and T. BECKET, Briſtol.
M DCC LXXX.

[PRICE HALF A CROWN.]

A

POETICAL EPISTLE

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQ.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FROM

An Inhabitant of the STATE of NEW-YORK.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A SHORT SKETCH

OF

General WASHINGTON'S Life and Character.

———On his aspect shines
Solemn virtue, and dread of Heav'n.
Where justice gives the head an air to his eye
The thirsty pitiable look, with fire
The fools of Parnell, whose [illegible]
Undaunted valour, and contempt of death. Thrown as
He Deem all men mortal, [illegible]
For mighty leaders. &c. VIRG.

BRITISH MUSEUM

LONDON: Printed for G. [illegible]
W. TESTERMAN, [illegible]
R. CROTTELL, [illegible]

[PRICE HALF A CROWN.]

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Reader may depend upon the following Poem being the genuine production of a native of America: the author is not vain enough to flatter himſelf, that it will throw any freſh luſtre on the character of General WASHINGTON, or entitle his unſkilful muſe to the ſmalleſt degree of poetical fame. His ſole view in penning this epiſtle was to expreſs, in the beſt manner he was able, the warm feelings of a grateful individual towards that diſtinguiſhed and beſt of men; to whom he, and every American, will in all likelihood be indebted for the independence and commercial proſperity of his country *.

* The ſole motive for republiſhing this Poem, and adding thereto a ſketch of the Life and Character of General WASHINGTON (which the Editor now gives to the reader in the plain unaltered narrative of the Author, who is connected and intimate in the family of that great man) is for the charitable purpoſe of raiſing a few guineas to relieve, in a ſmall meaſure, the diſtreſſes of ſome hundreds of American priſoners, now ſuffering confinement in the gaols of England. The profits ariſing from the ſale of this book will be faithfully appropriated to that purpoſe; and this the Editor reſts aſſured will be a much ſtronger incitement for the benevolent and humane to become purchaſers of it, than any intrinſic value the performance may demand.

Very large and liberal ſums were given for this charitable purpoſe in January 1778.—The Committee appointed for its diſtribution, to prevent an overflow of public generoſity, cloſed the ſubſcription, thinking it was very ample; and hoped that after ſome ſhort period no priſoners, in this ever to be lamented war, would on either ſide remain. That hope having vaniſhed, the progreſs of calamity not being ſtopt, and no proſpect of its concluſion, the Committee again opened the ſubſcription; and with a degree of ſucceſs that places the character of the nation and of individuals in the moſt honorable light, by proving that their humanity is not the capricious or faſhionable exertion of the moment, but a conſtant impulſe, and the deliberate reſult of their reaſon. This additional ſubſcription, though diſburſed with œconomy, is now expended, and the wants of theſe unhappy ſufferers nearly as extenſive as ever.——The pains of captivity cannot be much lightened by this ſmall mite of an obſcure individual; but ſuch munificent donations as have been made by Engliſhmen towards their relief, muſt ſtamp a leſſon on the minds of thoſe unfortunate captives, and our American brethren in general, that they ſhould not withdraw all national affection from a country, the bulk of whoſe inhabitants have not withdrawn all national affection from them.

N. B. If there are any of the Generous and Humane who have not yet ſubſcribed to the relief of the American priſoners, this publication gives them a fair opportunity to exerciſe their benevolence, by ſending their donations for this book to the publiſhers; which they may be aſſured will be faithfully applied, as it will be paid into the Committee for American priſoners by the Editor.

A
POETICAL EPISTLE
TO HIS EXCELLENCY
GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQUIRE,
&c. &c. &c.

—— Honeſt praiſe
Oft nobly ſways
Ingenuous youth:
But from the coward and the lying mouth
Praiſe is reproach. Eternal God alone
For mortals fixes that ſublime award.
He, from the faithful records of his throne,
Bids the hiſtorian and the bard
Diſpoſe of honour and of ſcorn:
Diſcern the patriot from the ſlave;
And write the good, the wiſe, the brave,
For leſſons to the multitude unborn.

AKENSIDE'S Ode.

WHILE many a ſervile Muſe her ſuccour lends
To flatter tyrants, or a tyrant's friends,
While thouſands ſlaughter'd at Ambition's ſhrine
Are made a plea to court the tuneful Nine;
Whilſt laureats lift their heroes to the ſky,
Foretel their conqueſts twice a year, and lie,
Damn half-ſtarv'd rebels to eternal ſhame,
Or paint them trembling at Britannia's name;

Permit

Permit an humble bard, *Great Chief*, to raiſe
One truth-erected trophy to thy praiſe:
No flatt'ring colours ſhall theſe numbers ſeek,
To tinge with bluſhes Virtue's modeſt cheek:
Call forth to view no great or generous deed,
But foes muſt own, and Waſhington may read.

Say, where along yon venerable wood,
My native ſtream * ſwells thy Potomack's flood,
Shall my untutor'd Muſe begin the ſong,
Which future bards in rapture ſhall prolong;
Or there my little bark preſume to ſail,
Fann'd by fair *Liberty*'s inſpiring gale?
Fair Liberty, of man the nobleſt claim,
Great ſource of bliſs, kind nurſe of arts and fame;
She, wrong'd and exil'd from yon eaſtern climes,
Perhaps may deign to liſten to theſe rhymes;
And in theſe regions pleas'd to find relief,
May bear them ſmiling to her fav'rite chief:
Illuſtrious *Chief!* whom with one common voice
An injur'd people choſe, and Heav'n approv'd the choice.

Forth from the boſom of thy calm retreat,
At once the hero's and the ſage's ſeat,
Where bounteous Nature ſpreads her choiceſt gifts
Of woods and lawns along thy native cliffs †,

* The river Wiccomico, which empties itſelf into the great river Potomack.
† Cliffs of Virginia formed by the banks of the Potomack.

 Where,

Where, with the Graces, Wiſdom choſe to roam,
Where ſweet Simplicity had fix'd her home,
Where wedded Love diſplay'd his mildeſt ray,
To gild each riſing and each ſetting day,
And with a ſmile could ſmooth the brow of Care,
Save when thy country's cries alarm'd thy ear,
Great Freedom call'd Thee to the glorious ſtrife:
The tranquil ſcenes of ſweet domeſtic life
Delight no more: to arms! to arms! ſhe cries;
To arms! to arms! each ſiſter-ſtate replies.
Be Thou great guardian of thy country's cauſe,
She ſaid, and hoſts of heroes ſhout applauſe.

Thus, when of old, from his paternal farm
Rome bad her rigid Cincinnatus arm,
Th' illuſtrious peaſant ruſhes to the field;
Soon are the haughty Volſii taught to yield:
His country ſav'd, the ſolemn triumph o'er,
He tills his native acres as before.

Or, when Timoleon's god-like boſom glow'd
To court true fame, and Virtue mark'd the road;
Joyful ſhe led him to Trinacria's || ſhore,
And kings and kinglings quickly were no more:
Soon was the tyrant § taught that power to own,
That hurl'd him headlong from his guilty throne:

|| Sicily. § Dionyſius the Tyrant.

Yet,

Yet, tyrant-like, ambitious ſtill to rule,
He frown'd the petty monarch of a ſchool;
Whilſt Thee, illuſtrious Chief, no titles grace,
Save friend and guardian to the human race.
Hail, happy man! crown'd with immortal bays,
Before whoſe glory ſhrink the dwindled rays
Of royal pageantry! thy gen'rous heart
To Freedom's ſons ſhall ſtill its warmth impart,
Teach them their native dignity to ſcan,
And ſcorn the wretch who ſpurns his fellow-man:
And when in eaſtern climes, 'midſt lawleſs ſway,
Thy fame ſhall ſink, and Freedom's wreaths decay,
Theſe infant ſtates ſhall catch the god-like flame,
And tyrants ſtill ſhall ſhudder at thy name;
Then nobly dare Columbia * to be free,
And what Timoleon was, thy Waſhington ſhall be.

What tho' proud Britain yet undrench'd with blood,
Pour her deſtructive thouſands o'er the flood,
With helliſh rage th' extremes of war purſue,
Not conqueſt now, but mean revenge her view;
What tho' to glut her unrelenting ire,
Of German tyrants German ſlaves ſhe hire,
Teach them to riot in the lawleſs ſpoil,
Which erſt had made her own brave ſons recoil,
Rouſe the grim ſavage to relentleſs war,
And faintly tell his ſcalping arm to ſpare:

* America.

What

What tho' freſh wreaths great vict'ry ſtill muſt twine,
To grace thy temples, Gates, or Arnold thine;
What tho' Herculean labours ſtill remain,
And all our battles muſt be fought again;
Yet, if th' embattled field thy Genius guide,
Or in the ſenate Wiſdom ſtill preſide;
Sooner ſhall yon blue-miſt-clad mountain * dread
The rattling ſtorms that war around his head,
Sooner ſhall night uſurp the beam of day,
Than Freedom crouch beneath Oppreſſion's ſway:
Calm and ſerene ſhe views the gath'ring ſtorm,
Sees her brave youth around thy ſtandard ſwarm,
Each boſom panting for the glorious wreath,
Or, ſhould they fall, each graſping it in death.

Come then, ye minions of tyrannic ſway,
Strive who ſhall beſt its dire commands obey:
Let other Falmouths tell each future age,
Of Britiſh fleets th' unprecedented rage,
And from their aſhes this great truth proclaim,
" Deſtruction only is the tyrant's aim:"
Once more, fierce Vaughan, lead forth thy ſavage band,
And ſcatter deſolation thro' the land;
Once more let Hudſon † mourn his rifled plains,
His raviſh'd daughters and his murder'd ſwains:

* A lofty mountain on the confines of Maryland and Virginia called The Blue Ridge.

† The Hudſon's, or North River, which runs through the province of New York, and falls into the Atlantic Ocean at that city.

Or, if in Britons ſtill ſuch ſouls ſhould dwell
As to thy lot, inhuman Dunmore, fell:
Ev'n thy Virginia, Waſhington, may view
Her infants bleed, her Norfolks blaze anew;
Beſmear'd with gore freſh Butlers may ariſe,
And with their ſcalp-clad brows inſult the ſkies.

All this may be; the blood already ſpilt
Fills not, alas! Britannia's cup of guilt;
Fell diſappointment ſtill her arm may brace
To wreak her vengeance by ſome freſh diſgrace:
Or, may not heav'n, yet eager to diſcloſe
Th' unconquer'd ſoul that in thy boſom glows,
Dangers on dangers heap, new labours raiſe,
Till in full luſtre all thy virtues blaze;
Till led by thee, the brave untutor'd band
Chace hardy vet'rans from this injur'd land;
Till haughty Clinton to thy ſtandard bow,
Or ſink unnotic'd as a Gage or Howe,
Till Britain, hapleſs Britain! curſe the hour,
When urg'd by pride and inſolence of pow'r
She, ſternly deaf to ev'ry juſt petition,
Thought with a frown to "look us to ſubmiſſion!"
Alas, poor Britain! thus thy Sandwich ſpoke,
And eager ſenates caught the fatal joke;
Each penſion'd ſcribbler draws his ſervile pen,
And proves Americans are hardly men;

Of

Of knaves and daſtards the contemptuous names
Amuſe the fawning circles at St. James,
And with this pray'r each courtly pulpit rings,
" Heav'n ſpare not rebels to the beſt of kings!"

Such was thy folly, Britain! ſuch thy fate!
Thus ſink the proud and inſolently great,
Of heavenly vengeance doom'd to feel the rod,
Who dare deride great Nature and her God.

Far other thoughts, Columbia, be thy pride,
Far other ſprings thy public councils guide:
Thine be the god-like taſk, the glory thine,
To kindle firſt, and ſpread the flames divine
Of true benevolence; her gentle ſtar
Shall light the reſcu'd millions from afar,
Invite them ſweetly on theſe plains to find
The great aſylum of oppreſs'd mankind;
Then to their wond'ring eyes diſcloſe the plan
Where the poor ſlave ſhall read that he is man;
Taſte Freedom's charms more pure than Rome could boaſt,
Or Albion, once her fav'rite iſle, has loſt.

Great without pomp, without ambition brave,
Proud, not to conquer fellow-men, but ſave:
Friend to the weak, a foe to none, but thoſe
Who plan their greatneſs on their brethren's woes;
Aw'd by no titles, undefil'd by luſt;
Free without faction, obſtinately juſt;

Too wiſe to learn from Machiavel's falſe ſchool,
That truth and perfidy by turns ſhould rule;
Too rough for flatt'ry, dreading ev'n as death
The baneful influence of Corruption's breath;
Warm'd by Religion's ſacred genuine ray,
That points to future bliſs th' unerring way;
Yet ne'er controul'd by Superſtition's laws,
That worſt of tyrants in the nobleſt cauſe;
The world's great mart, yet not by gold defil'd,
To mercy prone, in juſtice ever mild,
Save to the man who ſtrikes at Freedom's roots,
And never curs'd with Manſf—ds, N—ths, or B—tes.

Such be my country; what her ſons ſhould be,
O! may they learn, great Waſhington, from thee!
Thy private virtues be their public rule,
Thy public conduct be the Patriot ſchool!
That living law, from whence her riſing youth
May gather wiſdom, conſtancy, and truth,
Of Independence catch the gen'rous flame,
And learn to ſhudder at Oppreſſion's name!

And when retiring late from earthly cares,
Thy better part ſhall mount her native ſpheres,
'Midſt Patriot chiefs to taſte the pure delight
Of ever having thought and acted right;
Still, Phœnix-like, renew'd from age to age,
Thy ſpotleſs fame ſhall grace th' hiſtoric page,

Or flow expanded down the ſtream of time,
The darling ſubject of immortal rhyme;
Such as rehears'd Pelides' fatal ire,
Such as, great Milton, tun'd thy ſacred lyre,
Or that ſweet bard's, who ſung the man that bore
" His courſe to Latium from the Trojan ſhore!"

Then Commerce here ſhall fix his chief abode,
And thy Potomack heave beneath the load
Of crowding fleets; each crew in grateful lays
Thro' their rough throats ſhall pour their deathleſs praiſe;
And, pointing to Mount Vernon, ſhall relate,
" There once liv'd Waſhington, the good, the great,
" Whoſe arm preſerv'd, whoſe wiſdom guides the ſtate.
" Yon temple riſing 'midſt th' encircling grove
" To Fame and Him, a grateful people's love
" Rais'd in full jubilee: yon ſtructure fair
" Where Nature's God receives Religion's pray'r,
" He rear'd a laſting monument to be
" Of Heaven's beſt favours to the Good and Free.
" There, on Columbia's future bliſs and pow'r,
" Oft wou'd he muſe away the noon-tide hour;
" Alone, in public, this his conſtant aim,
" That her great cauſe and Nature's be the ſame:
" That Wiſdom triumph thro' her wide domain,
" And Freedom fix her everlaſting fane."

A SKETCH

A SKETCH OF Mr. WASHINGTON's LIFE AND CHARACTER.

Maryland, May 3, 1779.

IN compliance with the requeſt you made me in your laſt obliging letter, I ſet down to inform you of every intereſting particular that has come to my knowledge concerning the life and character of General Waſhington; and I do this with the greater cheerfulneſs, as I flatter myſelf I ſhall be able to communicate a more accurate and circumſtantial account of this illuſtrious perſonage than has ever hitherto been laid before the public. If, from what I ſhall ſay, the knowledge you already have of this excellent man can be any-way improved, or any luſtre can be added to that brilliancy of character, which you give me to underſtand he poſſeſſes in the eyes of Europe, I ſhall deem the pains I have been at, in procuring the following intelligence, as highly compenſated.

General Waſhington is the third ſon of Mr. Auguſtine Waſhington, a man of large property and diſtinguiſhed reputation

putation in the ſtate of Virginia: an anceſtor of this gentleman, about the period of the Revolution, ſold his property, near Cave, in the Eaſt Riding of Yorkſhire, and came over to Virginia, where he purchaſed lands in King George's County; and it was here that our hero was born on the 22d of February in the year 1733. In this county he has at this time three brothers, Samuel, John, and Charles, all gentlemen of conſiderable landed property, and a ſiſter who is married to colonel Fielding Lewis. His elder brother Lawrence, who went out a captain of the American troops, raiſed for the Carthagena expedition, married the daughter of the honourable William Fairfax of Belvoir, in Virginia, by whom he left one daughter, who dying young, and his ſecond brother alſo dying without iſſue, the general ſucceeded to the family-ſeat, which, in compliment to the gallant admiral of that name, is called Mount Vernon, and is delightfully ſituated on the Potomack River, a few miles below Alexandria. General Waſhington is the eldeſt ſon by a ſecond marriage; and, having never been out of America, was educated (as youths of fortune in this country generally are) under the eye of his father by private tutorage: a ſlight tincture of the Latin language, a grammatical knowledge of his mother-tongue, and the elements of the mathematics, were the chief objects he was taught to purſue. For a few years after he quitted his tutor, he applied himſelf to the practical part of ſurveying (a knowledge of which is eſſentially requiſite to men of landed property in this country) and was appointed ſurveyor to a certain diſtrict in Virginia; an employment rather creditable

ditable than lucrative; though it afforded him an opportunity of chuſing ſome valuable tracts of land, and made him thoroughly acquainted with the frontier country.

On the governor and council of Virginia receiving orders from England, in October 1753, to repel by force the encroachments of the French on the weſtern frontiers, along the rivers Ohio and de Boeuf, Mr. Waſhington, then a major in the provincial ſervice, and an adjutant-general of their forces, was diſpatched by general Dinwiddie, with a letter to the commander in chief of the French on the Ohio, complaining of the inroads they were making in direct violation of the treaties then ſubſiſting between the two crowns; he had alſo inſtructions to treat with the ſix nations and other weſtern tribes of Indians, and to engage them to continue firm in their attachment to England. He ſet out on this perilous embaſſy, with about fifteen attendants, late in October 1753; and ſo far ſucceeded, that on his return with monſieur de St. Pierre's anſwer, and his good ſucceſs in the Indian negociations, he was complimented with the thanks and approbation of his country. His journal of this whole tranſaction was publiſhed in Virginia, and does great credit to his induſtry, attention, and judgment; and it has ſince proved of infinite ſervice to thoſe who have been doomed to traverſe the ſame inhoſpitable tracts.

Soon after this, the deſigns of the French becoming more manifeſt, and their movements and conduct more daring, orders were iſſued out by adminiſtration for the colonies to

arm and unite in one confederacy. The aſſembly of Virginia took the lead by voting a ſum of money for the public ſervice, and raiſing a regiment of four hundred men for the protection of the frontiers of the colony. Major Waſhington, then about twenty-three years of age, was appointed to the command of this regiment, and before the end of May, in the enſuing year, came up with a ſtrong party of the French and Indians, at a place called Red-ſtone, which he effectually routed after having taken and killed fifty men. Among the priſoners were the celebrated woods-man monſieur De La Force and two other officers, from whom colonel Waſhington had undoubted intelligence, that the French force on the Ohio conſiſted of upwards of one thouſand regulars, and ſome hundreds of Indians. Upon this intelligence, although his little army was ſomewhat reduced, and intirely inſufficient to act offenſively againſt the French and Indians, yet he puſhed on towards his enemy to a good poſt; where, in order to wait the arrival of ſome expected ſuccour from New York and Pennſylvania, he entrenched himſelf, and built a ſmall fort called Fort Neceſſity. At this poſt he remained unmoleſted, and without any ſuccour until the July following; when his ſmall force, reduced now to leſs than three hundred men, was attacked by an army of French and Indians of eleven hundred and upwards, under the command of the Sieur de Villiers. The Virginians ſuſtained the attack of the enemy's whole force for ſeveral hours, and laid near two hundred of them dead in the field, when the French commander, diſcouraged by ſuch determined reſolution, pro-

poſed the leſs dangerous method of diſlodging his enemy by a parley, which ended in an honourable capitulation. It was ſtipulated that colonel Waſhington ſhould march away with all the honours of war, and be allowed to carry off all his military ſtores, effects, and baggage. This capitulation was violated from the ungovernable diſpoſition of the ſavages, whom the French commander could not reſtrain from plundering the provincials on the onſet of their march, and from making a conſiderable ſlaughter of men, cattle, and horſes. This breach of the capitulation was ſtrongly remonſtrated againſt by the Britiſh ambaſſador at the Court of Verſailles, and may be looked upon as the æra when the French court began to unmaſk, and to avow (though in a clandeſtine manner) the conduct of their governors and officers in America: they redoubled their activity and diligence on the Ohio, and in other places during the winter 1754 and the following ſpring. Virginia had determined to ſend out a larger force; the forts Cumberland and Loudon were built, and a camp was formed at Wills Creek, from thence to annoy the enemy on the Ohio. In theſe ſeveral ſervices (particularly in the conſtruction of the forts) colonel Waſhington was principally employed, when he was ſummoned to attend general Braddock, who with his army arrived at Alexandria, in Virginia, in May 1755. The deſign of ſending out that army, was to penetrate through the country to Fort Du Queſne (now Fort Pitt) by the route of Wills Creek; and as no perſon was better acquainted with the frontier country than colonel Waſhington, and no one in the colony enjoyed

ſo well eſtabliſhed a military character, he was judged highly ſerviceable to general Braddock, and cheerfully quitted his command to act as a volunteer and aid du camp under that unfortunate general. The particulars of the defeat, and almoſt total ruin of Braddock's army, conſiſting of two thouſand regular Britiſh forces, and near eight hundred provincials, are too well known to need a repetition: it is allowed on all ſides, that the haughty poſitive behaviour of the general, his high contempt of the provincial officers and ſoldiers, and his diſdainful obſtinacy in rejecting their advice, were the genuine cauſes of this fatal diſaſter. With what reſolution and ſteadineſs the provincials and their gallant commander behaved on this trying occaſion, and in covering the confuſed retreat of the army *, let every Britiſh officer and ſoldier confeſs, who were reſcued from ſlaughter on that calamitous day by their valour and conduct.

After general Braddock's diſaſter, the colony of Virginia found it neceſſary to eſtabliſh her militia, raiſe more men, ſtrengthen her forts, undertake expeditions to check the inroads of the enemy, &c. &c. &c. In all which important ſervices colonel Waſhington bore a principal ſhare, and acquitted himſelf to the utmoſt ſatisfaction of his country, by diſplaying, on every occaſion, the moſt perſevering induſtry, perſonal courage, and military abilities. He was again appointed to the command of the Virginia troops, and held it

* See captain Orme's letter to governor Dinwiddie, and alſo the other accounts of that day.

with ſignal credit till his reſignation in 1759, when he married the young widow of Mr. Cuſtis, his preſent lady; with whom he had a fortune of twenty thouſand pounds ſterling in her own right, beſides her dower in one of the principal eſtates in Virginia. From this period he became as aſſiduous to ſerve the ſtate as a ſenator, as he had hitherto been active to defend it as a ſoldier. For ſeveral years he repreſented Frederick County, and had a ſeat for Fairfax County; at the time he was appointed by the aſſembly, in conformity with the univerſal wiſh of the people, to be one of their four delegates at the firſt general congreſs. It was with no ſmall reluctance that he engaged again in the active ſcenes of life; and I ſincerely believe that no motives but ſuch as ſpring from a moſt diſintereſted patriotiſm could have ever prevailed upon him to relinquiſh the moſt refined domeſtic pleaſures, which it was ever in his power to command, and the great delight he took in farming and the improvement of his eſtate. You well know that general Waſhington is, perhaps, the greateſt landholder in America (the proprietors of Pennſylvania, Maryland, and the Northern Neck excepted); for beſides his lady's fortune, and ten thouſand pounds falling to him by the death of her only daughter, he has large tracts of land taken up by himſelf early in life, ſome conſiderable purchaſes made from officers who had lands allotted them for their ſervices; and has, moreover, made great additions to his eſtate at Mount Vernon. It is impoſſible in this country, as in England, to rate the value of eſtates by their annual rent or income, becauſe they are univerſally tilled by negroes, and in the hands of landholders.

holders. There are many eſtates in the middle colonies, which never produced a clear income to their owners of five hundred a year, that may be eaſily ſold for forty thouſand pounds. General Waſhington's, however, will not be over-rated, if ſet down at a good four thouſand pounds Engliſh per annum, and his whole property could not be bought for forty years purchaſe.

When it was determined at length in Congreſs, after every ſtep towards an accommodation had failed, and every petition from America had been ſcornfully rejected, to repel by force the invaſion from Great Britain, the eyes of the whole Continent were immediately turned upon Mr. Waſhington. With one common voice he was called forth to the defence of his country; and it is, perhaps, his peculiar glory, that there was not a ſingle inhabitant of theſe ſtates, except himſelf, who did not approve the choice, and place the firmeſt confidence in his integrity and abilities *. He arrived at Cambridge in New England, in July 1775, and there took the ſupreme command of the armies of America. He was received at the camp with that heart-felt exultation which ſuperior merit can alone inſpire, after having in his progreſs through the ſeveral ſtates received every mark of affection and eſteem, which they conceived were due to the man, whom the whole continent looked up to for ſafety and freedom.

* It is ſomewhat ſingular, that even in England not one reflection was ever caſt, or the leaſt diſreſpectful word uttered againſt him.

As he always refuſed to accept of any pecuniary appointment for his public ſervices, no ſalary has been annexed by Congreſs to his important command, and he only draws weekly for the expences of his public table and other neceſſary demands. General Waſhington having never been in Europe, could not poſſibly have ſeen much military ſervice when the armies of Britain were ſent to ſubdue us; yet ſtill, for a variety of reaſons, he was by much the moſt proper man on this continent, and probably any where elſe, to be placed at the head of an American army. The very high eſtimation he ſtood in for integrity and honour, his engaging in the cauſe of his country from ſentiment and a conviction of her wrongs, his moderation in politics, his extenſive property, and his approved abilities as a commander, were motives which neceſſarily obliged the choice of America to fall upon him. That nature has given him extraordinary military talents will hardly be controverted by his moſt bitter enemies; and having been early actuated with a warm paſſion to ſerve his country in the military line, he has greatly improved them by unwearied induſtry, and a cloſe application to the beſt writers upon tactics, and by a more than common method and exactneſs: and, in reality, when it comes to be conſidered that at firſt he only headed a body of men intirely unacquainted with military diſcipline or operations, ſomewhat ungovernable in temper, and who at beſt could only be ſtiled an alert and good militia, acting under very ſhort enliſtments, uncloathed, unaccoutred, and at all times very ill ſupplied with ammunition and artillery; and that with ſuch an army he withſtood the ravages and progreſs of near forty

thouſand

thouſand veteran troops, plentifully provided with every neceſſary article, commanded by the braveſt officers in Europe, and ſupported by a very powerful navy, which effectually prevented all movements by water; when, I ſay, all this comes to be impartially conſidered, I think I may venture to pronounce, that general Waſhington will be regarded by mankind as one of the greateſt military ornaments of the preſent age, and that his name will command the veneration of the lateſt poſterity.

I would not mention to you the perſon of this excellent man, were I not convinced that it bears great analogy to the qualifications of his mind. General Waſhington is now in the forty-ſeventh year of his age; he is a tall well-made man, rather large boned, and has a tolerably genteel addreſs: his features are manly and bold, his eyes of a blueiſh caſt and very lively; his hair a deep brown, his face rather long and marked with the ſmall pox; his complexion ſun-burnt and without much colour, and his countenance ſenſible, compoſed, and thoughtful; there is a remarkable air of dignity about him, with a ſtriking degree of gracefulneſs: he has an excellent underſtanding without much quickneſs; is ſtrictly juſt, vigilant, and generous; an affectionate huſband, a faithful friend, a father to the deſerving ſoldier; gentle in his manners, in temper rather reſerved; a total ſtranger to religious prejudices, which have ſo often excited Chriſtians of one denomination to cut the throats of thoſe of another; in his morals irreproachable; he was never known to exceed the bounds of the moſt rigid temperance: in a word, all his

friends

friends and acquaintance univerſally allow, that no man ever united in his own perſon a more perfect alliance of the virtues of a philoſopher with the talents of a general. Candour, ſincerity, affability, and ſimplicity, ſeem to be the ſtriking features of his character, till an occaſion offers of diſplaying the moſt determined bravery and independence of ſpirit.

Such, my good friend, is the man, to whom America has intruſted her important cauſe. Hitherto ſhe has had every reaſon to be ſatisfied with her choice; and moſt ungrateful would ſhe be to the great Diſpoſer of human events, were ſhe not to render him unremitting thanks for having provided her with ſuch a citizen at ſuch a criſis. Moſt nations have been favoured with ſome patriotic deliverer: the Iſraelites had their Moſes; Rome had her Camillus; Greece her Leonidas; Sweden her Guſtavus; and England her Hambdens, her Ruſſels, and her Sydneys: but theſe illuſtrious heroes, though ſucceſsful in preſerving and defending, did not, like Waſhington, form or eſtabliſh empires, which will be the refuge or aſylum of Liberty baniſhed from Europe by luxury and corruption. Muſt not, therefore, your heart beat with conſcious pride at the proſpect of your friend's being ranked among (if not above) thoſe illuſtrious patriots? at the enchanting thought, that He, whom you know and love, ſhall be acknowledged by preſent and future generations as their great deliverer, and the chief inſtrument in the hands of the Almighty for laying the foundation of that freedom and happineſs, which, I truſt, await the future myriads of this vaſt continent?

FINIS.